

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 916

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the congregation of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City upon its 120th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, the members of which will celebrate the church's 120th anniversary in September of 2014; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1894, the first meetings of the sixteen charter members took place in a one-room log cabin; over the past 120 years, First Baptist has grown to over 3,000 members, forty staff members, and four main buildings, totaling over 265,000 square feet on thirty-four acres of land; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church supports over one hundred ministries, including educational ministries for people of all ages, the Lenoir City Arts Center, which teaches music and the performing arts, and the Lenoir City Christian Academy, which includes a K-4 school, preschool, after-school program, and a summer daycare; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Loudon County Baptist Association, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention, First Baptist helps support six theological seminaries, one of which operates an extension center on First Baptist's campus, more than thirty colleges and universities, a publishing house, a nationwide bookstore chain,

and a North American and International Mission Board that supports over 10,000 missionaries combined; and

WHEREAS, over fifty members of First Baptist have entered Christian ministry, a testament to the spiritual nourishment First Baptist Church provides; and

WHEREAS, the longest tenured pastor in the church's history, Dr. C.E. Jackson, III, has led the congregation of First Baptist Church since 2001, and throughout its history, more than twenty full-time pastors have served God and their communities at First Baptist; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church of Lenoir City is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this congregation should be honored for their exemplary service to the good people of their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the members of the First Baptist Church of Lenoir City on the occasion of the church's 120th anniversary, thank them for their notable service to God and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.